

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A grease composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

(a) about 0.06 to about 10 weight percent of an esterified polymer derived from monomers comprising:

(i) a vinyl aromatic monomer;

(ii) unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride or derivatives thereof;

(b) a thickening agent, wherein the thickening agent is either

(i) an inorganic powder selected from the group consisting of clay, organo-clays, bentonite, fumed silica, calcite, carbon black, pigments, copper phthalocyanine and mixtures thereof; or

(ii) a metal salt of a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of a mono-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a di-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a poly-hydroxycarboxylic acid and mixtures thereof; ~~and~~

(c) an oil of lubricating viscosity, and

(d) 0 to about 20 weight percent of other performance additives selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, rust inhibitors, metal deactivators, antiwear agents, antiscuffing agents, extreme pressure agents, foam inhibitors, demulsifiers, friction modifiers, viscosity modifiers, pour point depressants and mixtures thereof,

wherein the esterified polymer contains titratable acid groups with a total acid number of at least about 4.

2. (Original) The grease composition of claim 1, wherein the titratable acid groups have a Total Acid Number (TAN) in the range from about 5 to about 100.

3. (Original) The grease composition of claim 1, wherein the vinyl aromatic monomer is styrene, substituted styrene or mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) The grease composition of claim 1, wherein the unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride or derivatives thereof is derived from maleic anhydride, methyl maleic anhydride, ethyl maleic anhydride, dimethyl maleic anhydride or mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The grease composition of claim 1, wherein the conversion of dicarboxylic acid anhydride or derivatives thereof to ester groups is in the range of about 88 % to about 99.5 %.

6. (Original) The grease composition of claim 1, wherein the esterified polymer is derived from alcohols containing about 6 to about 24 carbon atoms.

7. (Original) The grease composition of claim 1, wherein the esterified polymer is derived from mixtures of alcohols containing at least one alcohol with about 6 to about 11 carbon atoms and at least one alcohol with about 12 to about 24 carbon atoms.

8. (Original) The grease composition of claim 1, wherein the esterified polymer optionally contains at least one reacted amine.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a grease composition comprising the steps of:

(1) mixing an esterified polymer derived from monomers comprising (i) a vinyl aromatic monomer; (ii) an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride or derivatives thereof; with a solvent to form a solvated polymer;

(2) reacting the solvated polymer of step (1) with at least two alcohols containing (i) at least about 6 carbon atoms and (ii) the other containing less than about 6 carbon atoms to form a solvated polymer containing an ester or derivatives thereof;

(3) optionally, adding to the solvated polymer containing an ester or derivatives thereof an amine with primary functionality, secondary functionality or mixtures thereof to form an amidated polymer;

(4) adding the solvated polymer containing an ester or derivatives thereof of step (2) or the amidated polymer of step (3) to a thickening agent, an oil of lubricating viscosity or mixtures thereof, wherein the thickening agent is either

(i) an inorganic powder selected from the group consisting of clay, organo-clays, bentonite, fumed silica, calcite, carbon black, pigments, copper phthalocyanine and mixtures thereof; or

(ii) a metal salt of a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of a mono-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a di-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a poly-hydroxycarboxylic acid and mixtures thereof; and

(5) optionally adding to the product of step (4) adding at least one other performance additive to form a grease composition, wherein the esterified polymer is present at about 0.06 to about 10 weight percent of the grease composition.

12. (Cancelled).